



ABSTRACT

5 This invention provides a message format and a method
for the delivery of message data from a transmitting computer in a
first environment to a receiving computer in a second environment.
The transmitting computer prepares a message which includes
message data, a delivery wrapper and a presentation wrapper. The
10 delivery wrapper includes a delivery agent and a list of presentation
software and presentation data components which may be required
for a user to access the message data on the receiving computer.
The presentation software and presentation data components are
included in the presentation wrapper of the message. The
message is transmitted from the first computer to the second
15 computer by a transmitting agent operating on the first computer,
beginning with the delivery wrapper. The delivery agent is activated
on the receiving computer once it is received and it determines
which of the presentation software and presentation data
components must be added to the second environment in order for
20 the message data to be viewed or manipulated. The delivery agent
then instructs the transmitting agent not to send presentation
software and presentation data components which already exist on
the receiving computer or which are not otherwise required. The
delivery agent then creates a presentation environment which may
25 incorporate presentation software and presentation data
components software that previously existed in the second
environment as well as newly added components allowing the user
of the second computer to access the message data. The newly
added components may or may not be retained as part of the
30 second environment.